



Meeting Notes – Heart Check – What Are You Building On? (August 6, 2014)

We met on July 30, 2014, but that meeting was dedicated to praying for our school-age daughters; therefore, notes will not be posted. These notes capture our August 6, 2014 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes from the evening may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic discussed.

GOD’S OVERALL VISION for the Group: Learn how to apply the Word to our lives.

CURRENT VISION: “The Year of Maturity: Learning how to hear with ears of faith that we may be doers of the word and not hearers only.” Scripture Reference: **Mark 4:24**.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 6:1 – “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God” (NKJV).

Discussion Topic – Heart Check – What Are You Building On?

- **The Concept.** Between meetings, sometimes, I will leave notes on the whiteboard as a refresher for me during the week. After our July 23, 2014 meeting (“Connecting the Dots”), my husband added the following comments to the whiteboard:

$$1+1=2$$

$$1-1=0$$

One step forward then one step back means you haven’t moved at all.

My initial interpretation was obedience takes us forward, but disobedience takes us back, and this interpretation has merit. However, my husband helped me expand upon this interpretation as it relates to spiritual growth.

- **Explaining the concept.**
 - **Accumulation:** Accumulation takes place when we add to what we already have, hence $1+1=2$. Spiritually, we can accumulate knowledge from several different places. Here’s a visual example capturing a few of our learning environments:

(church) + (other sermons) + (small group) + (daily devotionals) + (personal devotion).

However, accumulation does not necessarily mean application! I know I spent a lot of years feeling like I had all these puzzle pieces, but didn’t know how they fit together. I could quote Scripture, and I had a lot of head knowledge, but my life was still an emotional mess! **Takeaway.** We can

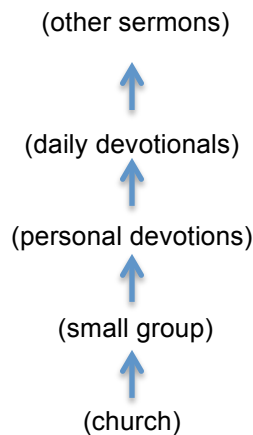
accumulate a lot of knowledge, but still lack the understanding we need to know how to apply that information.

- **Subtraction:** Subtraction occurs when we take from what we already have, hence $1-1=0$. To explain this concept spiritually, let's change the plus signs in our equation above to dashes (which look like minus signs):

(church) - (other sermons) - (small group) - (daily devotionals) - (personal devotions)

This example represents whenever we hear a good message (from wherever it comes), but shortly thereafter, we can't tell anyone what we learned! In essence, the information goes in, but as soon as we leave that environment, we are no longer able to retain what we heard! Basically, we take one step forward to hear the information and then one step back when we forget the information! **Takeaway.** We can take a step forward to hear good information, but if we don't retain that information, we take a step backwards and are left with nothing!

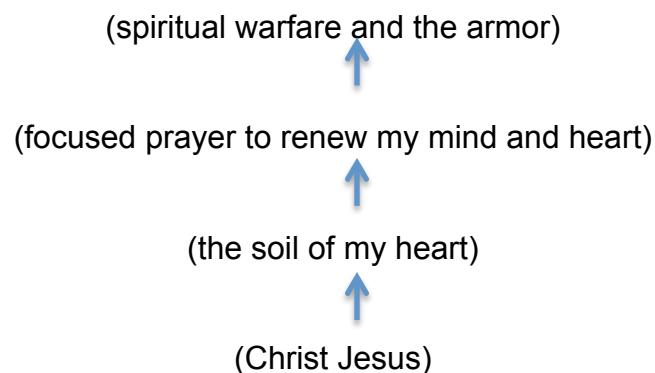
- **One step forward then one step back means you haven't moved at all.** We can accumulate knowledge, but that doesn't mean we can apply it. We can go from place to place seeking knowledge, but that doesn't mean we will retain it. Unless we can retain what we learn and apply what we retain, we have not moved and wind up stagnate in our spiritual growth! Therefore, we need to learn how to build upon what we learn! **Takeaway.** Unless we establish a foundation then build upon it with what we learn, we can amass knowledge yet lack understanding, or we can go from place to place seeking knowledge yet never learn.
- **Foundations.** Isaiah 28:10 says, "For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little" (NKJV). With that verse in mind, let's look at all our teaching environments from a different perspective:



In our other examples, our different learning environments were on the same "level" and randomly ordered, indicating the messages are not necessarily

connected to each other. Granted, there are times when no matter what we hear or where we hear it, the Holy Spirit will deliver a consistent message. However, since the Bible teaches us to let all things be done decently and in order (**1 Corinthians 14:40**), we've put our learning environments in a specific order for a specific reason. The church is the base, because as born-again believers and members of God's church, Christ has to be our basic foundation (**1 Corinthians 3:10**). Every other precept we learn, no matter where we learn it, should build upon what we know about Christ. In other words, just like a "Connect the Dots" picture starts to make sense as we draw lines from one dot to the next, how we grow spiritually will begin to make sense once we connect the dots between our foundation in Christ Jesus and the precepts we learn to build upon that foundation. Moreover, just as the dots have to be connected in a certain order, our spiritual precepts must be connected in an order that will help us to be transformed into His image from glory to glory (**2 Corinthians 3:18**). **Takeaway.** Each precept we learn must build upon our foundation in Christ AND be connected to other precepts so the Holy Spirit can do what is needed in our lives to transform us into the image of Jesus.

- **Personal application for foundations.** Once we defined the need for a personal foundation, we spent the rest of the evening discussing ours. We each had different foundations, so for brevity sake, I will only share mine, which is the "Four-Way Stop Sign & the Soils."¹ I process my entire life and everything I experience based on how it affects the condition of my heart and where I am in the four soils as described in the Parable of the Sower and the Seed (**Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8**). Once I added the precepts of focused prayer to renew my mind and heart and spiritual warfare, specifically the armor of God, all the spiritual puzzle pieces I have been collecting since 1986 FINALLY came together to form one complete picture! Thus, my precept upon precept, line upon line looks something like this:



What this means is, in the midst of any trial, if I am to grow spiritually, I have to know the condition of my heart as it relates to the four soils, what area of my mind and heart need to be renewed through prayer, and what armor piece needs

¹ The "Four-Way Stop & the Soils" (Dec 9, 2009) can be found on the documents page of the website (<http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>) under Group Documents.

shoring up! Bringing all of these precepts together has helped me to count it all joy when the trials come, because I **know** growth is forthcoming! **Takeaway.** While our basic foundation has to be in Christ, there are precepts in Scripture that, once understood and connected, will help us mature spiritually! Even though each person's foundation may be different, knowing what foundation we are building upon helps us to be purposeful in our growth.

- **Other key points during the discussion.**

- **Name that arrow:** We did the "Name That Arrow" exercise to help one sister process through a current trial. As we helped her identify what she was feeling and why, she was able to name the arrow that pierced her armor and how the arrow got through. **Takeaway.** We learned anger divides; prayer heals!
- **Ears of faith:** When we hear with ears of faith, we do not react to what we see, instead we trust God to work things out His way! **Takeaway.** We know we're trusting God when we don't react to our circumstances.

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site wow2women.com.



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ATTACHMENT: Whiteboard

